

1 1. (Currently Amended) A locking mechanism for use in combination with and for  
2 preventing unintended disconnection of a generally horizontal beam from a vertical  
3 support post, said post having an array of vertically elongated first openings and said  
4 horizontal beam having an end flange arranged to overlap said first openings, said flange  
5 having slots, a front face and a back face, with lugs projecting from the front face of said  
6 flange into said first openings and a second opening above one of said lugs, said beam  
7 and said flange being vertically shiftable between a raised position at which said lugs are  
8 freely moveable into and out of upper portions of said first openings, and a lowered  
9 position at which said lugs are interlocked with said post in lower portions of said first  
10 openings, said locking mechanism comprising:

11 a resilient plate;

12 connecting means for securing said plate to the back face of said flange, said  
13 connecting means comprising tabs on said plate, said tabs being received in and deformed  
14 into interlocked engagement within the slots in said flange; and

15 a pin projecting from the mid-portion of said plate through a the second opening  
16 in said flange ~~above one of said lugs~~ and beyond the front face of said flange, said plate  
17 being resiliently deflectable to accommodate retraction of said pin into said second  
18 opening when said lugs are aligned with the upper portions of said first openings, and to  
19 urge said pin into the upper portion of one of said first openings when said lugs are  
20 shifted to the lower portions of said first openings, said plate having at least one  
21 peripheral deformation configured to coact with said flange in defining a pocket for  
22 receiving a tool used to resiliently deflect said plate in order to retract said pin into said  
23 second opening.

1           2.     (Cancelled)

1           3.     (Currently Amended) The locking mechanism of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein said  
2     tabs are movable within said slots to accommodate deflection of said plate relative to said  
3     flange.

1           4.     (Cancelled)

1           5.     (Currently Amended) The locking mechanism in accordance with claim 1  
2     ~~[[4]]~~ wherein said at least one peripheral deformation is aligned laterally with said pin.